



University Plaza owner files bankruptcy

By Brittany Barrientos/The University Daily

The University Plaza has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, more commonly known as reorganization bankruptcy.

The Prime Campus Housing, LLC, which owns the UP, is undergoing proceedings to ensure they will be able to continue to own and operate its business.

Joseph Postnikoff, the attorney representing the debtor, said the case was filed March 21 and the proceedings began March 24.

"(The University Plaza) did file bankruptcy, but will continue to be in possession of their building and continue operating," he said. "The way Chapter 11 works, is the debtor continues to operate and propose a plan to

pay (the creditor)."

According to court documents, Prime Campus Housing LLC owes approximately \$11 million to The Varde Fund IV-A, L.P.

Postnikoff said his clients have filed for a cash collateral order to repay their debt.

"A cash collateral order authorizes the use of funds that can be used, so that (the business) can continue to operate," he said. "(Business) should continue on, uninterrupted. The payroll will also be uninterrupted, so employees can get paid on time and be able to continue to provide services to

their residents."

Matthew Plass, a junior biology major from Houston, said he lives at the University Plaza and had not heard about the issues the apartment complex was facing. He said everything has still seemed pretty normal throughout the last few weeks.

"Nothing new is really happening," he said. "I haven't noticed anything different."

Plass said the only thing he might have noticed is a decreased amount of staff, but he said he cannot say for sure.

Postnikoff said the issue of apartment complexes filing Chapter 11 was common in the 1980s, before it declined. But he represents several apartment complexes and anticipates a rise of Chapter 11 filings in the coming years.

"The debtor has the exclusive right to file in the first 120 days, when they are unable to pay the loans," he said. "It is a much (better situation) than the alternative — shutting down." A University Plaza manager said no one is allowed to comment on the current issues facing the apartment complex.

David Weitman, the attorney representing the lenders, the Varde Fund, said the current proceedings have

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Four found dead in possible murder-suicide

SWEETWATER (AP) — Police in this small West Texas town continued to investigate Wednesday what they believe was a triple slaying and suicide in a home.

The bodies of a mother and her two young daughters were found in a bedroom at the home late Tuesday, Sweetwater police Chief James Kelley told the Sweetwater Reporter for its online edition Wednesday.

They had been beaten to death with a blunt object, he said.

The man's body was found in a recliner in another room, Kelley told the newspaper.

The mother and her children

were identified as Sarah Gonzalez, 37, Olivia Gonzalez, 8, and Monica Gonzalez, 6.

When police arrived they found Esperdion "Dion" Sepeda, 39, dead in the chair.

It was not immediately clear how Sepeda took his life.

The killings were the first in Sweetwater since September 2003.

The bodies were taken to Dallas for autopsies.

Police were called to the home after a neighbor unsuccessfully tried to get in touch with someone in the home.

Gas prices continuing to increase

By Travis Cram/
The University Daily

Gas prices are up for the seventh week in a row as motorists prepare for the busiest driving time of the year, according to the Energy Information Administration's Web site.

According to the EIA, prices have reached a new all-time high for a record third week in a row. Traditional graphs from the administration show a pattern with downfalls in prices towards January and peak prices in June throughout the last few years. Many seem convinced the prices are related to the conflict in Iraq, but Professor Jeffrey Edwards of the Texas Tech Economics Department said that is not the case.

"Absolutely not," he said. "The United States barely gets any of its oil from Middle Eastern countries."

According to the EIA's Web site, the total overall oil received from

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a DROP of Love



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

ARELI GARCIA, (LEFT) a senior human development and family studies major from Ralls, and Stephanie Simpson, a sophomore physical therapy major from Glenrose, share a laugh outside of the Chemistry building Wednesday afternoon as Justin Pshigoda, a sophomore pre-medicine major from Perryton, hugs the blood drop, Cadet Farrahmoutos, a senior political science major from Lubbock.

MOTORCYCLE MEMOIRS



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

A HONDA VALKYRIE Rune is parked next to other motorcycles at the Engineering Key north of Memorial Circle Wednesday evening. The Lubbock-area HOGs, known as the Harley Owners Group, came to Texas Tech to visit the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall on display in Memorial Circle.

Schiavo case brings thought to living wills

By Jeremy Martin/The University Daily

Last week, many Americans watched religious groups, judges and members of Congress battle over Terri Schiavo's fate while she slowly starved to death in a Florida hospice.

The moral and political questions issues Schiavo's case brought out still are being debated across the country.

But Katherine Andrews, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major from Austin, said there is a lesson to be learned from the controversy. Schiavo's story has reminded her to prepare for the unexpected. If Schiavo had been clear with her family about her wishes concerning life support, the nationwide controversy might have been avoided.

"It's better to make decisions like that on your own, instead of having the government try to make them for you," Andrews said.

Andrews also said she was waiting to worry about taking any legal steps until later in life, after she gets married. Until then she will leave it up to her parents.

"If something happens to me, I trust my parents to make those decisions for me," she said. "When I'm out on my own, I'll start worrying about it."

Jill Taylor-McCall, the managing director at Student Legal services, said college students often procrastinate when it comes to planning for death or illness. However, young, healthy people should be more

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Tech addressing alcohol issues

By Clara Cobb/
The University Daily

Today marks the seventh annual National Alcohol Screening Day.

The program is designed to provide outreach, screening and education about alcohol's effects on health. The program addresses a range of drinking behaviors from risky drinking to alcohol dependence.

"Most Tech students drink responsibly," Juli Benson, health education manager for Student Health Services, said in a press release. "Many do not realize the potential costs of risky drinking, the signs of alcohol poisoning, or how even a moderate amount of alcohol can interact with common medications and contribute to academic problems."

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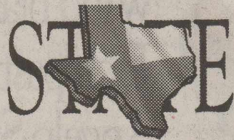
Weather

Today SUNNY High 72 / Low 42	Tomorrow MOSTLY SUNNY High 76 / Low 47
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Wall Street at a Glance

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The Rundown



Woman convicted under new state law White supremacist sentenced to 40 years Kurdish president elected to lead Iraq

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A notary public who let migrants think she was an immigration lawyer is the first person successfully prosecuted under a state law aimed at stopping such deception.

Martha Uresti pleaded guilty Monday to falsely representing herself as a lawyer. Under a plea agreement, she must serve two years probation and pay a \$1,000 fine and restitution to three of her victims. Prosecutors said each victim paid between \$2,500 and \$3,000 for the services.

She was set to go to trial in May on a third-degree felony theft charge alleging she charged a Brownsville man \$24,500 to prepare numerous immigration papers.

A law enacted in 2001 is aimed at stopping notary publics from exploiting a similar title, "notario publico," given to experienced lawyers in Latin America. The law specifies that a notary public can be held criminally responsible for providing immigration services without the proper license.

CHICAGO (AP) — Avowed white supremacist Matthew Hale was sentenced to 40 years in prison Wednesday for trying to have a federal judge killed.

Hale, the 33-year-old leader of a group that preaches racial holy war, was sentenced after a rambling, two-hour speech in which he claimed he was the victim and even recited part of the "Star Spangled Banner." He showed no emotion and sat staring at the defense table as the sentence was handed down.

Prosecutors argued for the maximum sentence, saying Matthew Hale's crime amounted to an act of terrorism, and the judge agreed.

"Mr. Hale is not concerned about taking someone's life, but rather how to do it without getting caught," U.S. District Judge James Moody said in imposing the sentence. "I consider Mr. Hale to be extremely dangerous and the offense for which he was convicted to be extremely egregious."

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Two months after elections, Iraq's new government finally began to take shape Wednesday as lawmakers elected as president a Kurdish leader who promised to represent all ethnic and religious groups in a session broadcast across the country — and shown to Saddam Hussein in his jail cell.

A prominent Shiite Arab was expected to be named today as prime minister, the most powerful post in what will be Iraq's first democratically elected government in 50 years. That would open the way to picking a Cabinet.

Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani was chosen for the largely ceremonial job of president, while Adel Abdul-Mahdi, a Shiite, and current interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Arab, were elected vice presidents.

Talabani's selection and the expected choice of Ibrahim al-Jaafari as prime minister further consolidate the power shift in Iraq, where both the Shiite Arab majority and the Kurdish minority were oppressed, often brutally, under Saddam's Sunni-dominated regime.

Senate votes to allow reduction in American share of U.N. dues

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Wednesday to reduce the United States' share of the cost of U.N. peacekeeping missions by tens of millions of dollars.

The vote reflected congressional criticism of the United Nations following allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the oil-for-food program for Iraq, sexual abuses by peacekeepers and other scandals.

U.S. dues are now capped at 27.1 percent of the peacekeeping budget. Under a 1994 law, that cap is to be reduced to 25 percent.

The Bush administration asked that the cap be maintained at 27.1 percent. A Democratic proposal to keep the higher cap was defeated in a 57-40 vote, mostly along party lines.

The United States is expected to spend about \$1 billion on peacekeeping operations this year, with much of the money for activities in Sudan and Haiti. The administration is seeking about the same amount for next year.

If the cap were reduced, that could result in roughly a \$75 million peacekeeping cut.

The vote came as an amendment to a bill authorizing \$34 billion in spending on foreign aid and State Department operations for 2006. The figure generally reflects Bush's spending request and is about 13 percent more than current spending.

Prospects for the overall bill becoming law are unclear. No foreign aid authorization bill has been passed since 1985, according to Senate staff, largely because of disputes related to abortion policies and other issues. The actual funding for foreign aid comes from separate spending bills.

WAYWARD WATER



STEVE LEWIS/The University Daily

A STUDENT BRAVES the wind in front of the library courtyard in front of the library Wednesday morning.

Bush heading to pope's funeral accompanied by former presidents

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and two of his predecessors are joining other world leaders in paying a final tribute to Pope John Paul II, whose papacy spanned the terms of five American presidents.

Bush led a small U.S. delegation that included former President Clinton and Bush's father, the first President Bush, the president's wife

Laura, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"What a great man," Bush, the first sitting president to attend papal burial rites, said of John Paul II ahead of his visit.

"It will be my honor to represent our country in a ceremony marking a remarkable life, a person who stood for freedom and human dignity," he told reporters after a Cabinet meeting Tuesday.

Former President Carter had hoped to go as well, but backed off when told the Vatican had limited the official delegation to five "and there were also others who were eager to attend," said Jon Moore, a spokesman for the Carter Center in Atlanta. Moore said the Carters "always relish memories" of the pope's 1979 visit to Washington, the only time a pope has been to the White House.



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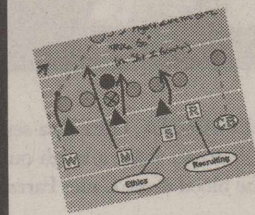
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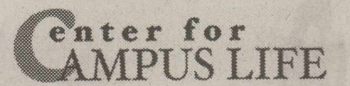
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Staff Senate to address recruiting staff ombudsman

The Texas Tech Staff Senate is accepting nominations for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Tech President Jon Whitmore said the staff senate has been working to get a staff ombudsman for a few years. An ombudsman is an impartial person who can address the concerns of individual staff members.

"If you've got a problem ... they can go to that person and at least express how they're feeling," Whitmore said. "I'm not sure we would have created that position if it was not brought forth by the Staff Senate."

Developing a job description for the ombudsman and working out the details to create the new position has taken some time, but soon will be complete, Guinn said.

"The final interview for that position are this month," he said. "The staff will now have an ombudsman to deal with those individual issues."

Guinn said the Staff Senate has addressed other issues of concern throughout the year including the use of Social Security numbers, free tuition for staff, the reporting of overtime hours, pay-to-park machines and salary increases.

"One of the first issues brought to our attention this year was Social Security numbers," he said. "Any time there was a form for a staff member, there was a Social Security number."

Guinn said staff members are now identified by identification numbers on all forms except for payroll because of actions taken by the Staff Senate. There have also been concerns regarding the use of Social Security numbers for students that should be addressed.

Whitmore said the Staff Senate plays an important role in university operations.

"Staff are extremely important to students, faculty and all of us here at the university," he said.

"The staff senate is a big part of that."

"It's really important that we have good representation across the different types of jobs at the university," Whitmore said. "The broad collection of people are really critical to making sure Texas Tech improves."

He said having a variety of positions represented by the Staff Senate allows major concerns to be addressed.

Whitmore said the Staff Senate allows concerns of the staff to be brought to the administration's attention.

"What the senate tries to do is pass resolutions ... that they think would be helpful to the majority of staff," he said. "They can gather up what the main concerns are and then come to me and tell me what their issues are."

"It's really a diverse group of people," Whitmore said. "When you have that variety of employees,

it's sort of hard to keep on top of all the issues the staff has. The staff senate is useful in this."

Brent Guinn, president of the staff senate, said any staff member has the ability to submit an issue to be looked at by the senate. Issue forms are available on the Staff Senate Web site.

"We have approached numerous issues brought forth by staff," he said.

"There was really a void," he said. "It's a relatively new entity."

Whitmore said he tries to attend at least one Staff Senate meeting each semester because he feels communication with the staff is important.

"I've enjoyed working with the staff because my belief is that Texas Tech will get better if we can employ the best people," he said.

Nomination forms for staff senate positions are available through the Staff Senate Web site and must be completed by April 15.

Cochran's clients gather for funeral

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Johnnie Cochran Jr.'s most celebrated clients, O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson, joined civil rights figures and Hollywood stars at the lawyer's funeral Wednesday, remembering Cochran's cunning legal skills and his commitment to the people he represented.

Cochran, 67, died March 29 of an inoperable brain tumor at his home in Los Angeles. He was diagnosed with the tumor in December 2003.

"He didn't just love justice or admire justice — he did justice, he achieved justice, he fought for justice, he made it happen," said Mayor James Hahn, the former city attorney and a Cochran friend. "Certainly in Los Angeles history, he will be in the pantheon of the great trial lawyers

that we've seen."

Cochran "deserves a standing ovation from everybody in this house," the Rev. Calvin Butts told the packed West Angeles Cathedral, drawing applause from a throng that ranged from the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton to Michael Jackson and his attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr.

Colorful and eloquent, Cochran became a legal superstar after helping clear Simpson during a sensational murder trial in which he uttered the famous quote "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," a reference to a glove found at the murder scene.

The line was on the back of T-shirts being sold for \$10 outside the church, where 5,000 people were expected to attend the funeral. The shirts had a picture of Cochran on the front with the words: "Freedom and justice."

Students begin college work in high school

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his third year of college courses, Malcolm Webb is becoming a skilled welder and working toward an engineering degree. Not bad for a high school student.

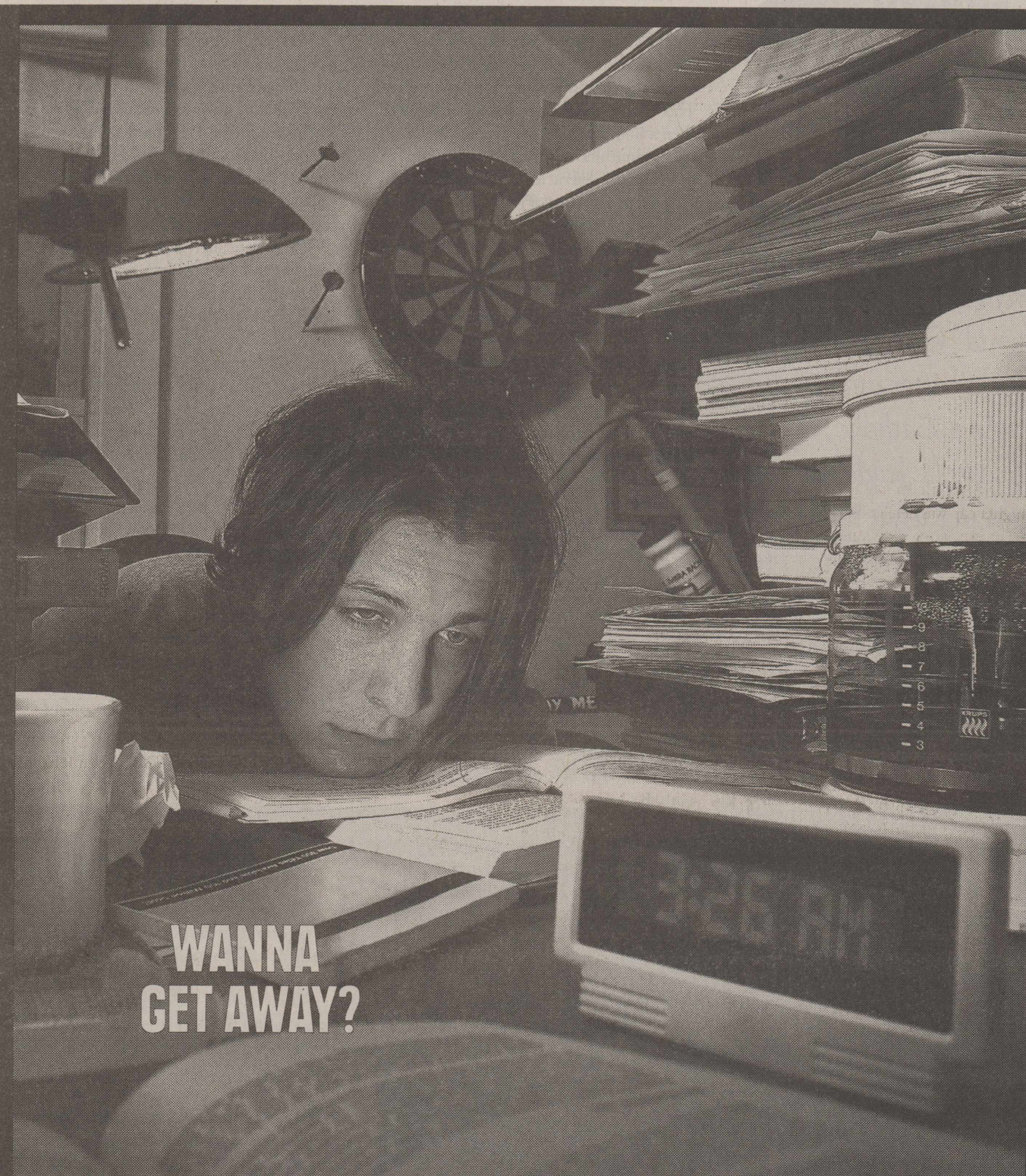
The 17-year-old is a junior at Snowflake High School in northeastern Arizona. He also is enrolled at Northland Pioneer College through a system called dual enrollment. He earns both high school and college credit for the advanced work, meaning he is on faster pace to join the work force than others who will finish high school next year.

Today, it seems, college is not just for college students anymore, according to two studies released Wednesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, a federal agency.

Some 57 percent of all colleges and universities had high school students taking college courses for credit in 2002-03. Among only public schools, almost all community colleges had high schoolers enrolled in courses, as did most four-year institutions.

"It's becoming more common for us in this area," said Webb, who leaves his high school setting to attend college welding and math classes. "It feels good going to the college campus. You're not just surrounded by everyone of the same age. In a job, not everyone is going to be the same age or from the same background. ... This helps me a lot in life."

Most high school students who take college courses are part of a system in which their schools reach agreement with colleges about shared credit, course offerings and other details. Other students enroll directly with colleges if their school has no such system.



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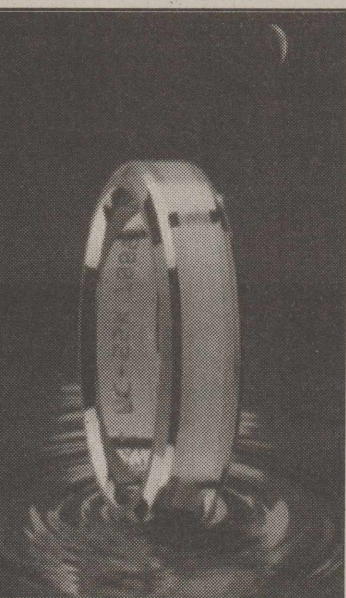
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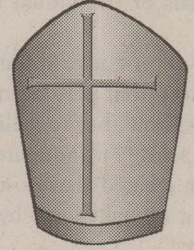
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Opinions

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Remembering our pope



Catholic 20-somethings reflect on the personable and pious pontiff, the only of their lives

Pope joined hands with other faiths, made strides

He wasn't a politician. He wasn't a celebrity. He wasn't a world leader. He was simply a Catholic of great faith who happened to lead the world's largest Christian denomination. He was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla and canonized John Paul II. He was my pope.

Being raised Catholic I have known no other pope. I have no first-hand knowledge of what the church was like before he became its spiritual leader. I have nothing with which to compare his life. This in no way makes him any less great in my eyes. He has remained a constant in my life. He might not always have been at the forefront, but he always was in my periphery. He was more than a role model and inspiration — he was a comfort.

I, like many around the world, took his death personally. With the loss still fresh, it's hard to sort out everything — his life, his death and his legacy. The initial shock, the media circus, the criticism, the uncertainty of our future adds to the heartache.

Words do not do justice to this man. He accomplished so much. He changed our religious world. Most noticeably in my mind were the strides he made on behalf of our religion to the rest of the world. One could not ask for a better ambassador. As a Catholic, and a Catholic leader at that, he did what no pontiff had done before. He went against 2,000 years of tradition and ritual to reach out to the world.

The logistics of leading one-sixth of world's population — a population held together not by heritage, nationality or even language, but mere faith — is a miracle in its own right. But he did it, and did it well.

He balanced the delicate relationship between the liberal West and the growing conservative population of the global South.

Under him, the church grew. It doubled

Sarah Looten



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As a Catholic, and a Catholic leader at that, he did what no pontiff had done before. He went against 2,000 years of tradition and ritual to reach out to the world.

its population. This growth happened in the poorer parts of the world — Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Not only did he welcome them with open arms when he traveled, he included them in the church leadership; more than 40 percent of the cardinals he appointed came from the global South.

Like a large lumbering beast, the church

moves slowly. It takes great effort to move in any direction, but especially forward. But he led, and he moved forward.

He apologized for the Crusades and the Inquisition. He asked forgiveness for the church's sins against women, the unity of the human race, against respect for cultures and religion and against Christian unity. Those were more than mere words, more than a simple plea for forgiveness. It was an open admittance of past transgressions. A monumental event for an organization in which the decisions of its leaders had been considered infallible.

It's a sad fact Catholics have had a historical contempt for followers of Judaism — even blaming them for the death of Christ. Pope John Paul II made it a personal mission to change those perceptions. He strengthened relations between the two faiths by opening dialogue between the religions, visiting Jewish temples, visiting Jerusalem to heal and not convert. But most importantly, he even went so far as to apologize for the church's sins against Jews.

There are those who remain critical, complaining he didn't do enough. No one ever does enough, though. It's called potential. But he did his best, and arguably did better than most of his predecessors.

The meaning of Catholic is "universal." That's what he strived for, making the church more universal. He reached out to the poor and the forgotten, embodying the very meaning of his faith. This will be his legacy — a legacy of global outreach.

It was his wish to see the church become truly global, truly universal and truly catholic.

Looten is a senior sociology and political science major from Panhandle. E-mail her at sarah.n.looten@ttu.edu.

The time for the church is now

We prayed for him each Sunday in church — while he was healthy and while he was in his demise. He was our leader and the guide for Catholics the world over.

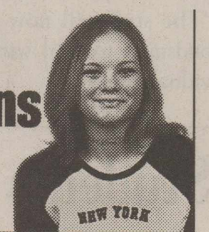
What must be understood is the loss of a pope is equal almost to the loss of a U.S. president or any world leader. Because that's what he was — an influential world leader. He broke down barriers between religions and countries. He led the world's largest Christian denomination but was a spiritual leader for those of any faith. He was our Father on earth.

There were many aspects of his papacy with which I did not agree from a liberal standpoint, but his strides on the world stage are not to be ignored. While I do hope for what some would call a more progressive or non-traditional pope to follow, I still will miss this man to whom we all looked in our faith. And in these more recent years, I can't help but have gratitude for his composure during the priestly scandals of which we all have been made aware. I can't help but think he partially died of a broken heart from these men of God who strayed too far.

I always will remember catching some of Christmas Eve's Midnight Mass after my family returned home from our local Midnight Mass. I always will remember the tears in my mother's eyes while she listened to his homily from the Vatican's altar, and her tears as he became visibly weaker with each year. Later, when I could understand his message, I too would cry.

Upon news of his rapidly declining

Angela Timmons



Young Catholics everywhere, who will carry the church into the next era, must find a new place within it, as well as its new direction.

health and subsequent death, I have taken another look at my church. When I learned Friday he would die within days, I searched for the rosary beads of my youth and when I couldn't find them, I hurried to buy new rosary beads — and I haven't done the rosary in years.

Young Catholics everywhere, who will carry the church into the next era, must find a new place within it, as well as its new direction. It is essential we honor this pontiff of our youth and the accomplishments for which he strove.

Timmons is a senior general studies major and opinions and copy editor of The UD. E-mail her at angela.n.timmons@ttu.edu.

College: U.K. vs. U.S.

It constantly amazes me how different our educational systems are throughout the world. University students everywhere studying for a bachelor's degree have to meet such varying requirements, it's hard to fathom what that piece of paper we get at the end of it all is worth.

I have come from a system in the United Kingdom in which it usually takes just three years to get that degree; here, many students seem to take five or even six years. Despite it taking much longer in the United States, I often wonder if students really learn much more about their chosen specialty. Here, a huge chunk of time is spent in classes that have little to do with the chosen major — why do agricultural majors end up taking art appreciation classes just to complete a credit? What is the value of this? If the student in question wants to do something like this then there is no problem — I know back in England I would appreciate the chance to take a couple of classes away from the area of my major — but at my choosing.

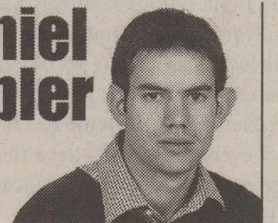
Now I know the official line is that doing so many hours of this and that make you a more well-rounded person, but does it?

If you're not interested in the first place, you're unlikely to fall suddenly in love with medieval history. Surely the idea of getting a degree is to learn a specialty that equips you with the tools to become an expert in your chosen area and lead to a career in which you can use some of these skills.

But it is not just the curricula that are different; it also is the method of learning. It has taken some getting used on my part to have to attend small classes several times a week in each subject — rather than just one lecture with a couple hundred students and the odd lab or field trip. It's been a good experience to receive a lot more actual teaching, rather than an introduction to an area and being expected to go away and fill in the gaps for myself. Yet the downside to this is that there is very little time for learning more than what is covered in class.

Constant tests and homework assignments mean you have to learn what the instructor sees as important, rather than exploring related avenues for yourself. I'm used to one big assignment per class,

Daniel Kubler



We still get a piece of paper that holds the same weight everywhere — or does it?

perhaps an essay or presentation on a particular area that requires much individual research beyond what was taught in class in order to receive a good mark, with a final examination at the end of the year covering the whole syllabus. Again, the exam structure is different, normally a three-hour paper having to answer from four to eight questions.

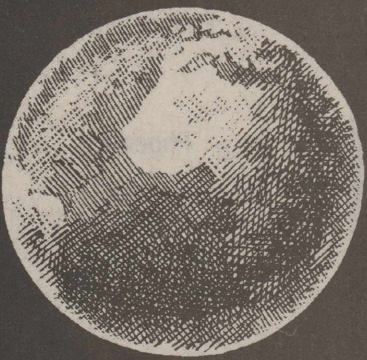
Both systems have advantages and disadvantages. The U.S. system requires one to have an all-around grasp of the major points to receive a good mark, whereas in the United Kingdom, one would have to develop an in-depth understanding of just some of the major points to get a good mark; it is possible to get away with knowing very little about certain areas and still do well.

Perhaps one of the more bizarre differences is grading. Back home, a 90 is almost unheard of. A fellow classmate of mine last year got a 90 for an essay we had to write. The essay had to be approved by the head of the department to confirm the mark. Seventy is considered an A, but even they seem pretty hard to get. On the flip side, a 40 is a pass, meaning the whole scale is used regularly and outstanding work truly is recognized.

Despite the differences we still get a piece of paper that holds the same weight everywhere — or does it?

Kubler is a visiting undergraduate student from the U.K. studying international equine and business management. E-mail him at daniel_kubler@hotmail.com.

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TECH TALKS BACK

Sowder's inaction against Littlejohn a blemish on the face of Lubbock

Every decent human being should be outraged by the actions of Lubbock District Attorney Bill Sowder. He essentially let a guilty man go free with a slap on the wrist and rubbed the results in the face of the victim. It is a disgrace and a shame that he refused to do what the citizens of Lubbock elected him to do.

It should be clear that the teenager in the case of former Officer Littlejohn is a bona fide victim, even if it is true she offered to perform sexual acts on this man in exchange for benefits. It is equally clear the subsequent actions on the part of Sowder and his team dealt a devastating blow to decency, ethics and the public trust.

Police officers are held to a higher standard, especially when on duty. If they can't or refuse to handle this heightened duty, they should not be on the force.

Littlejohn, by allegedly demanding, suggesting or accepting sexual favors from a citizen while on duty, put himself in peril of violating that heightened duty and should live with legitimate consequences. His actions were the most heinous a cop could commit.

Sowder, by refusing to prosecute this man to the fullest extent, suggested by the grand jury, essentially legitimized Littlejohn's corruption. It seems clear Sowder believes the victim got what she deserved. He refused

to notify her of the results, even after she requested he do so. He refused to do so because he knew she did not want a plea bargain in this case, and if he did not tell her, his irreversible actions would go unaffected by her subsequent protests. More disturbing, all this means her status as victim means very little to him, and he was more interested in protecting the interests of Littlejohn than those of the teenaged victim.

This was extremely unethical behavior. He should be removed.

— Rodney Lewis Jr., former Texas Tech student, Boulder, Colo.

LETTERS: The UD welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to UD@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

GUEST COLUMNS: The UD accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submission.

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Tech doing good job attracting local students

By Dusty Jonas/
Contributing Writer

Jay Daniels always wanted to come to Texas Tech. Maybe it was because his family always went to the football games while he was growing up. Perhaps it was the fact his sister graduated as a Red Raider. If you ask Jay, the reason was plain and simple — he is from Lubbock.

"This was the only college I applied to," Daniels said.

He is one of the 4,138 students from Lubbock County who attends Texas Tech University, according to the Admissions Office fact sheet for fall 2004.

Nearly 15 percent of the 28,483 Tech students are from Lubbock County, which is higher than

the representation for any other region.

Daniels, who works in the admissions office, said Tech sends out admissions counselors to all the local high schools with information about the university. These counselors go as far as El Paso.

Daniels said the admissions office is not biased toward Lubbock; they make contacts to people throughout the country, which is why all

50 states are represented at Tech. Local children do see more of

Tech because it is easier to send more admissions counselors to students close to Tech, and they get more information, Daniels said.

Daniels, who graduated from Monterey High School, said there was no extra effort from his guidance counselor to attend Tech, but kept the focus more on just going to college.

Daniels believes many people from Lubbock attend Tech because it is what they are used to.

"I think most people are scared of change," he said.

Choosing a college also has to do with who and what people know, Daniels said. Many children growing up in Lubbock are used to and know Tech well before they enroll in the university.

"I always wanted to go to Tech — it is such beautiful campus," Daniels said.

Tech may not have hard time recruiting at some Lubbock schools.

Alice Chavez is the guidance counselor for seniors at Lubbock High, and she believes Tech is the easy choice for many of her students.

"We are pro-Tech here," Chavez said.

The counselors at Lubbock High try to help students understand the benefits of staying close to home — money being the main benefit. That is why many of the students are encouraged to consider Tech or South Plains College in Levelland, Chavez said.

At Coronado, the focus is

more on just getting kids to go to college. Senior counselor Sharon Dickson said while she and her staff encourage many students to attend Tech, they try to focus more on finding the students' best match for what they believe will be their major.

Despite that, plenty of students still come to Dickson with interest in Tech.

"We probably feed more students into Tech than any other school in Lubbock, but we want them to apply to more than one school and not sell themselves short," she said.

Approximately 75 to 80 percent of all Coronado seniors will go to some type of college, whether it is a four-year school or a community college, Dickson said.

"We probably feed more students into Tech than any other school in Lubbock..."

— SHARON DICKSON
Senior Counselor at
Coronado High School



New finds bolster case for human ancestor

(AP) — Is a fossil creature that grabbed headlines three years ago really the earliest known ancestor of modern humans? Or does it belong elsewhere on the evolutionary tree?

The answer has been hotly debated, but now two studies argue that it does indeed belong on the human branch.

In 2002, scientists announced finding jaw fragments, some isolated teeth and a skull of a creature nicknamed "Toumai" in Chad. At some 6 million to 7 million years old, the fossils came from around the time of a major split in the evolutionary tree, with one branch leading eventually to humans and the other branch leading to chimps.

The researchers argued that the creature, which they dubbed Sahelanthropus tchadensis, belongs on the human branch and so is the oldest known hominid. Some others disagreed. In any case, the skull provided a puzzling combination of human and chimp traits and raised what one expert called "a wheelbarrow full of questions" about evolution at that time.

Many scientists now think S. tchadensis was probably a hominid, and more evidence appears in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

It comes from Michel Brunet of the University of Poitiers in France, who led the team that made the original discovery, and colleagues.

Other experts said the new work strengthens the case for hominid status but doesn't clinch it.

"This isn't a smoking gun," said David Begun of the University of Toronto.

A big question is whether S. tchadensis walked upright, because that's a key characteristic of hominids. Brunet, in an e-mail, said given the available evidence it would be a "great surprise" if it didn't walk upright. But he agreed with other scientists that to be sure, scientists would have to find and analyze skeletal bones that carry signatures of upright walking, like a knee, hip or foot.

In Nature, Brunet and colleagues report discovering two new jaw fragments and the crown of a tooth in the same geographical area as the earlier findings. Analysis shows similarities to hominid fossils and differences from ape traits, they said.

They also present a computerized reconstruction of the skull, because the fossil had been distorted in the ground. The reconstruction confirms that S. tchadensis shared several

features with later hominids, the researchers wrote. In addition, the position of the hole where the spinal cord enters is like what's seen in humans but not apes, which suggests upright walking, they wrote.

Rick Potts, director of the Human Origins Program at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, said the position of that hole doesn't necessarily prove S. tchadensis walked upright. Still, Potts said he thinks the creature was probably a hominid.

Begun agreed, and said the chances are "pretty good" the creature walked upright, although "I'll be convinced when they find a knee joint."

Bernard Wood of George Wash-

ington University said he finds too little evidence to declare S. tchadensis a hominid with certainty, although it might well be true. If it isn't, the creature might have belonged to a branch of the evolutionary tree that has no living representatives, he said.

Driver killed in road-rage shooting

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 22-year-old man was killed and another person was wounded in what police believe was a road-rage shooting in a residential area.

Jonathan Bowe, who was driving a car when he was shot, died from several large-caliber gunshot wounds

after the Tuesday night shooting, police spokesman Sgt. Richard Ramirez said. No arrests have been made.

Witnesses told police that Bowe cut off a pickup truck on a freeway frontage road, that the truck followed his car, and someone in the truck began shooting.

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Architecture professor experiments with virtual reality

Story By Kelly Gooch/
The University Daily
Photos Courtesy of Saif Haq

Many people can recall a time they have had a hard time finding their way through a building, but new software might make that process easier.

Saif Haq, assistant professor in the College of Architecture, has helped come up with simulated environments of buildings with complex layouts, such as hospitals.

Haq said this computer software helps look at how people find their way in these complex buildings.

"We need to think about (how people find their way) while designing the building," he said.

In these simulated environments, Haq is able to control factors such as lighting and color.

Architects first think of construction when designing buildings, he said. However, architects desire to better understand the building's environment.

Haq uses various operational and human processes in the simulated environment. For example, he said someone who is stressed probably reads the signs in a building.

The software consists of two parts:

space syntax and way finding.

Haq said space syntax is a tool to evaluate the environment and building layouts, and way finding involves the process of people walking through different areas of a building.

Space syntax can be used to look at crime in a town, and in the future he might be able to research traffic, Haq said.

This software is beneficial because it can help people be more confident when walking through a building, he said.

Haq said people make decisions about their environment.

Glenn Hill, associate dean of research in the College of Architecture, said he started working on this software with Haq three years ago when he was director of visualization certificate.

Hill helped put the software to-

gether for way-finder in addition to a projection system and the hardware.

Hill said they decided to work with virtual reality because there are issues with working in actual environments; a whole hospital floor could not be shut down for them to do an experiment.

The simulated environment is much cheaper to work with than an actual environment, Hill said. More complete data can be compiled with the simulated environment.

"It's not as realistic as the real world," he said.

The most important thing about using this software, is that researchers can control what the variables are, Hill said.

In the experiment, he said it was determined that people respond the same way in a virtual environment

as in an actual environment.

Hill said after three years of working on this software, he now is confident a virtual environment can be used.

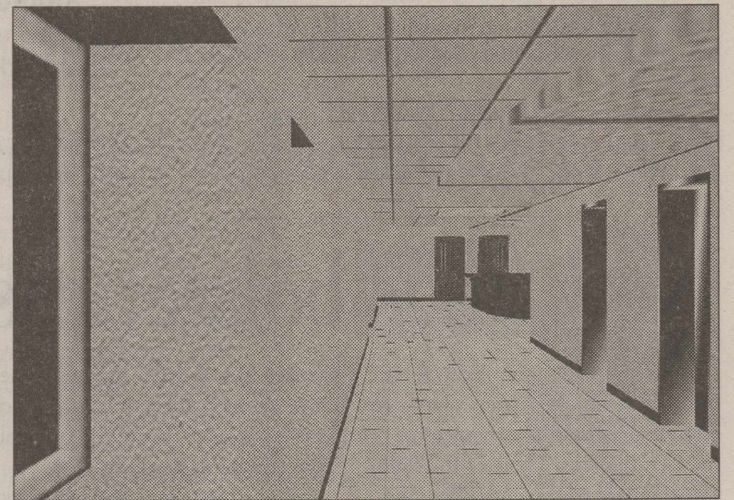
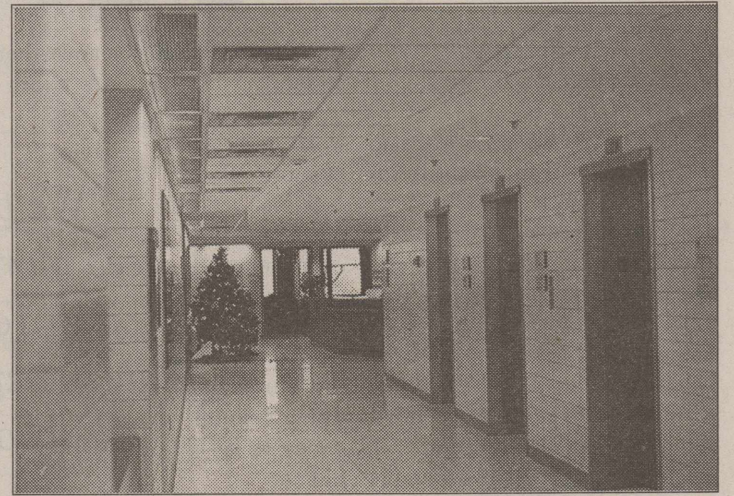
Adetania Pramanik, a graduate student in architecture and environmental design, has been working with Hill and Haq on space syntax and virtual reality.

Pramanik said virtual reality is a tool used to create the real environment.

The virtual reality, Pramanik said, still has problems such as people becoming dizzy when they navigate with the joystick.

An additional problem to virtual reality is not having the sense of a real environment, she said.

Haq said it is important for architects to keep in mind the people who will be using the building they design.



TOP RIGHT: A photograph of the inside of a hospital hallway.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A virtual reality simulation of the same hospital hallway using architectural software developed to help people navigate through buildings.

"We need to think about (how people find their way) while designing the building."

— SAIF HAQ
Assistant Professor in the College of Architecture

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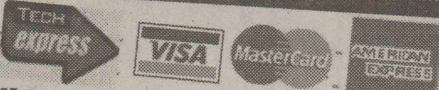
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SGA to hold semester's last Student Senate meeting

By Travis Cram/
The University Daily

Today will mark the final Student Senate meeting of the 40th session of the Student Government Association.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Lankford Lab

of the Electrical Engineering building.

Several bills will be voted on by the committee, such as the Allocations Bill, which decides what money will go to various student organizations.

Internal Vice President

and President-elect Nathan Nash will preside over his final meeting Thursday before internal vice president-elect Casey Harmon will take over for the next session beginning April 21.

Nash said the last SGA meeting is the end to a long,

drawn-out process.

"It's a culmination of a long process, and it's always a fun one for us because it gives back to the students," he said.

The bill appropriates funds for the support of registered student organizations for undergraduate and graduate students for the next fiscal year beginning Sept. 1 and ending Aug. 31, 2006.

Some of the other bills that will be looked at during Thursday's meeting include bills dealing with a proposed separate commencement ceremony for graduate students and adjusting the number of senators on each standing senate committee in order to fit the new number of senators.

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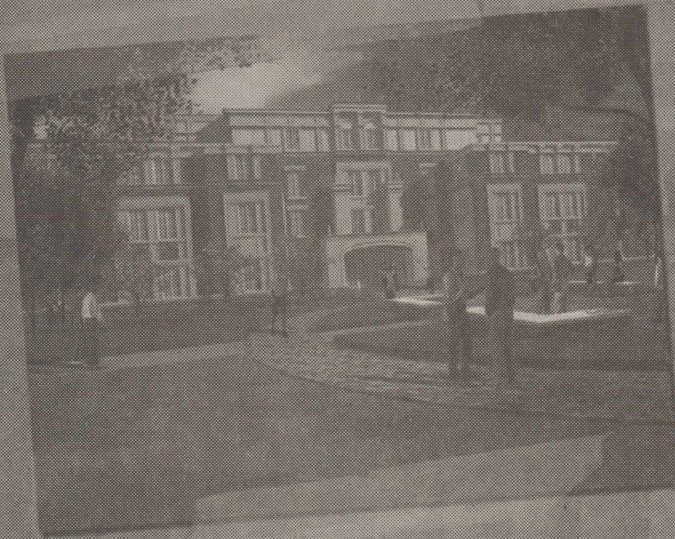
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Wills

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concerned about having a plan than anyone.

"You usually see these kind of problems in cases of catastrophic accidents or sudden illnesses," Taylor-McCall said.

Youth is no guarantee against death or tragedy, she said. Schiavo was 26 when she went into the coma that put her into a persistent vegetative state.

When someone has a terminal illness, she said, he has time to carefully consider life support options and draw up a will. Controversies arise when the medical problems happen unexpectedly.

Schiavo's case had people across the country debating medical ethics and moral issues, but Taylor-McCall said she wants the case to remind people to plan ahead.

"I hope people use the current situation to encourage them to get their affairs in order," she said.

Interest in living wills, or legal documents that specify a person's preference on life support methods in case of a debilitating and irreversible terminal condition, has risen in the past weeks. However, many students are like Andrews — they are interested in making their wishes known to family members, but uncertain about the proper way to do it.

While Andrews said she is concerned about what will happen to her if she no longer can make decisions for herself, she is unsure about the steps she would need to take to make her wishes officially and legally known.

"I assume you have to have some papers drawn up or something," she said.

Taylor-McCall said many people have misconceptions about living wills. No universal document for detailing a person's medical care preferences exists because each state has different laws.

Texans, for example, do not need a living will, but need two other documents to make a legal plan for their future medical care: an advanced directive to physicians and a medical power of attorney.

An advanced directive to physicians allows people to leave instructions for their care at a time when they would not be able to communicate. A medical power of attorney names someone to act on the incapacitated person's behalf to carry out the instructions left in the advanced directive.

Jennifer Bard, director of the health law program at Texas Tech said both of these documents are available at www.texasprobate.com/forms. A person can print the forms and fill them out for free without going to court or consulting with an attorney. Two witnesses must be present when the person signs the forms.

After making copies of the documents and giving them to loved ones, the person is finished with the process.

Though students can complete the process without an attorney, Bard said, Tech students can talk to lawyers at Student Legal Services for free, so they should take advantage of the opportunity.

"I would definitely recommend having an attorney go over it with

you if you can," she said. "That can only be good."

Whether a person chooses to fill out the forms alone or consult a lawyer, Bard said, considering and planning for unpleasant situations can only be helpful.

"The important thing is for you to think about it," she said.

Though thoughts of death and illness are not something on which many people wish to dwell, Taylor-McCall said everyone should consider his or her own mortality long enough to make plans and put things in order. In addition to the medical power of attorney and the advanced directive to physicians, students should consider making a will.

The typical college student does not have much property, she said, but dividing even the smallest of estates is easier with a will. And with the free resources offered by Student Legal Services, she said there is no better time to begin planning.

"I don't see any reason why every student shouldn't have a complete estate package," she said.

The initial consultation for any of the forms will take about 30 minutes. The lawyer will give the student the forms to fill out at home and bring back. The entire process should last between one and two weeks, depending on how many clients the lawyer is seeing at the time. Anyone interested in these services can Student Legal Services at (806) 742-3829 to make an appointment.

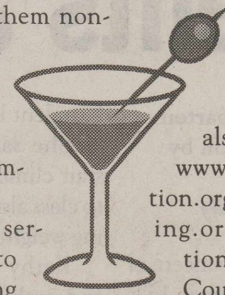
Alcohol

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Free alcohol screening will take place on the Texas Tech campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Playa Room of the Student Union building and from 3 to 6 p.m., both in the Chitwood/Weymouth lobby and at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

"Students will meet briefly with the with a campus professional who will give them non-judgmental feedback on their assessment," Benson said. "When appropriate, students will be directed to campus support services."

According to the services, it is important to know whether drinking patterns are safe, risky or harmful. The alcohol screening



is completely confidential, personalized, brief and professional. This service is free to all Tech students.

Alcohol screening also is available online at www.collegedrinkingprevention.org or www.alcoholscreening.org. For more information, contact the Student Counseling Center at (806) 742-3674 or Student Health at (806) 743-2866.

Mother says she stayed with fugitive to protect family

CAMPTI (AP) — A prison warden's wife kidnapped more than a decade ago by a fugitive killer had a truck, an expanse of highway nearby and enough freedom to escape.

But her boss said Wednesday the mother of two was imprisoned by fear and stayed with her captor to protect her family.

"She sacrificed her life for her family's safety," said Martha Rash, who, with her husband owns the chicken farm where Bobbi Parker lived and worked for five years with Randolph Dial, an escaped Oklahoma

inmate arrested Monday after nearly 11 years on the lam.

Parker and Dial both told authorities she was held captive. Many locals, including those who saw Parker driving alone, have questioned how she could have been held for so long against her will.

But Rash told The Associated Press that Dial, 60, convinced his hostage he had close ties to the mafia and would harm her family if she left. Rash said she suspected the couple were on the run.

"I even asked her several times, 'What are you all running from?' It was strange," Rash said. "He was so controlling, so jeal-

ous. It was his way, and she was going to do like he wanted."

Dial, a sculptor and painter, was convicted of the 1981 murder of a karate instructor. He had obtained trusty status at the Oklahoma State Reformatory in Granite, and he ran an inmate pottery program with Parker.

He had access to the home of Parker and her husband, assistant warden Randy Parker, and staff housing on prison grounds during the day. The access aided his escape in August 1994, when he took Parker at knifepoint in the family's minivan.

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Students attempt to keep freshman 15 at bay

Story by Lindsay Wharton
and Photo Illustration by
Steve Lewis/
The University Daily

Weight gain often is a concern of college students. The freshman 15 is a dreaded phrase for some incoming college students.

Katie Proctor, a senior general studies major from Midland, said although she has friends who are concerned about gaining weight when they first came to college, college life had the opposite affect on her.

"When I moved here, I dropped 20 pounds," she said.

Before coming to college, Proctor said she was used to her mother paying for her expenses, but when she moved to Lubbock, she had to budget her money.

Proctor said now that she pays for her own way, her diet consists of Ramen noodles and portion-controlled food because she is living on

a student budget.

She said all the walking and stair climbing involved with going to class also prevents her from gaining weight.

Kathy Chauncey, nutritionist and author of "Low-Carb Dieting for Dummies," said the reason some college students gain weight is because they eat a larger amount of food and have a decreased amount of activity.

She said freshmen go through a lifestyle change when they enter college. Often, students had a structured eating schedule in which nutrition was monitored by their parents.

When away from home, students have freedom to decide about when and what they consume, Chauncey said.

Many activities in which students get involved in center around food, she said. Studying and meeting with friends often includes a snack or a meal.

Becky Wendel, a sophomore public relations major from Houston, said she gained 20 pounds her freshman year.

Wendel said inactivity coupled with the fried food options in her residence hall convenience store contributed to her weight gain.

She said she has struggled with her weight in the past, and often eats when she is bored.

"I love food; it's like an addiction," she said.

When she came back for the fall semester of 2004, Wendel said she had an exercise class that helped her keep her weight steady. She said the class was once a week but it still made a difference.

The spring 2005 semester has been a struggle, Wendel said, because she does not engage in regular physical activity.

Another contributing factor, Wendel said, is she spends a lot of time with her boyfriend who constantly eats fast food. Avoiding

unhealthy food when it is around is difficult, she said.

Chauncey said students concerned about their weight should avoid large portions. Fast food restaurants are well known for their large portions and empty calories, she said. Students should be more aware of what they are consuming.

"Learning to be more health conscience is good advice," she said.

Students should utilize the campus cafeteria options, Chauncey said. Students can have a balanced, healthy diet if they eat one entrée with several servings of vegetables and fruit, which are readily available at the dining halls, she said.

Students also should have a regular eating schedule, Chauncey said. When students miss meals, they often will gorge later in the day and eat more calories than necessary. Eating in the cafeteria forces students to eat on a regular schedule, she said.

Exercising is another important

factor to preventing weight gain, Chauncey said. Students can walk throughout campus or work out at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Physical activity improves people's physical and mental performance, Chauncey said. Also, it can prevent physical illness by boosting one's immune system.

RIGHT: The best of both worlds, sweets and salts, at the University Center Food Court Wednesday afternoon.



Chapter 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been a long time in the making.

"We made a loan in 1998 to the present borrower; it was due in 2001. The money was used to fix up the place with improvements and maintenance," he said. "What has been happening since December 2001 is (the Prime Campus Housing, LLC) has been trying to refinance, unsuccessfully."

Weitman said because the loan had not been repaid, action needed to be taken by the borrower so a deal could

be worked out. He said the Varde Fund appointed an on-site receiver to oversee the property, but the same staff and practices were still used.

"As a lender, we are supportive of anything that helps the property and employees," he said. "It is good economics and good business to use the cash collateral order."

Weitman explained from the lender's perspective, it is comforting for them to know their money is being put toward normal operating policies, such as paying employees and normal operating policies as shown in a set budget, as opposed to paying owners, attorneys and other outside

resources.

Another clause in the cash collateral order is all payments must have approval of the lenders. Weitman said the lenders have approved all proposals relating to maintaining normal life for the residents of the complex.

"Although there's a dispute, we are in agreement that it should be business as usual for the third party," he said. "From a community standpoint, it should be business as usual."

Throughout the next several months, both the lender and the debtor are expected to work toward stabilizing the apartment operations and determine the property worth,

with the help of the court if necessary, and figure out what needs to be done to get the full worth of the property. For the latter to happen, The Prime Campus Housing, LLC, may have to be bought out or refinanced.

Weitman said he is not completely comfortable with the potential value of the property.

"We are undersecured," he said. "In our view, the property is not worth the amount of our debt."

More intervention from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court is expected in the near future, especially to redefine or narrow the terms of the current agreement.

Gas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Irag by the United States is less than 5 percent. Only about 40 percent of crude oil goes toward gas production, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Edwards added not all crude oil received is even used toward its every need.

"Gas refineries only handle certain types of crude oil," he said. "I imagine that most of the Arabian crude oil does not even go towards gas production."

The EIA reported yesterday the

prices had jumped 6.4 cents since last week and almost 44 cents from a year ago. Prices are expected to rise through Memorial Day weekend.

Prices throughout the country, according to the Department of Energy, have reached as high as \$2.462 for low octane fuel in Hawaii and as low as \$2.054 for low octane fuel in New Jersey. The average price in the country was approximately \$2.228 per gallon.

GasPriceWatch.com reported Tuesday the highest price for premium-grade gas was \$3.08 at a Chevron gas station in Baker, Calif.

Adam Sparks, a junior advertising and marketing major from Southlake, said the increase actually has helped him.

"It's taught me a lesson," he said. "I'm learning not to drive around as much anymore, and I'm only spending \$100 per month instead of \$185 per month."

Sparks said his last total amount he spent was about \$52.40 to fill up his truck, which holds about 24 gallons of gas.

Gas stations throughout Lubbock reported gas prices around \$2.17 for regular grade and \$2.27 for more premium gas Wednesday. Lavonna Jeffreys, who works at a Bolton and station on 82nd Street, said the price increase may cause problems for gasoline stations.

"We usually don't have any problems with people running off after they fill up," she said. "But lately we have had quite a few people taking off so we had to add a pre pay only pump outside to try and help prevent it from happening anymore."

Jeffreys said the station reports any drive-offs to its main office with the license plate number of the car. Another letter is then sent to the owners of the car asking them to pay the amount they allegedly stole within five days or else they may face prosecution.

Charles Bolton, co-owner of Bolton Oil Co., said there is a slight increase in the drive-offs once prices go up. He also said the company does not like to always escalate the price per gallon, but they do it in order to keep up with their competitors.

"We do not like to lead in the highest price when they go up," he said. "We may not go up unless one of our competitors moves their prices."

Bolton also said the retail prices will move almost every day and so consumers are keeping their cars filled with gas because there is a chance that it will be even higher the next day, but he would like to see better prices.

"We'd actually like to see gas a little more reasonably priced," he said.

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CAITY COLVARD/The University Daily

LAURIE STEVENSON, A senior business major from the Woodlands, Josh Stucky, a junior marketing major from the Woodlands, and Lisa Gavia, a senior political science major from San Antonio, dance and sing during Plain Brown Wrapper's performance at Crickets March 30.

By Clara Cobb/
The University Daily

'WE'RE WITH THE BAND'

The local college bar scene attracts loyal groupies



High winds, streets flooding and final exams cannot keep them away.

Several Texas Tech students spend their weeknights following music throughout Lubbock in a West Texas tradition.

Courtney Rader, a senior communication studies major from Austin, said her favorite song John Sprott plays is "Leaving on a Jet Plane." Hearing the song is among the reasons she comes out to hear Sprott and Plain Brown Wrapper.

"Everywhere he plays, we go," Rader said. "Everybody knows all the songs they play. They play great music, all the classics."

Steven Seiders, a senior political science major from Austin, said he will come out to see the band even when he has other things to do.

"Sprott is the guy we go to see," Seiders said. "He can play pretty much anything."

Mike Loving, a senior finance major from Corpus Christi, said he goes to see Sprott play at least once a week, but usually goes multiple nights to various venues with Seiders.

"We can't go out without having a wild time," Loving said. "They are wonderful; they make the night. He makes the crowd go crazy."

Loving said he is a regular at Crickets, where Sprott plays Tuesday nights and Plain Brown Wrapper plays Wednesday night. He said the best part of the show is when Sprott uses his microphone stand during the set to play his guitar.

Although he is a regular at Sprott's performances, Loving said every show is different.

"You never know what they're going to play," Loving said. "They

are the best in Lubbock."

Sprott said band has been playing together for several years.

"It's been going steady for a while, whether people come out for the music, atmosphere or fellowship," Sprott said. "We give people something that for a few milliseconds just takes them away from what they are thinking about."

He said music does not come naturally to him, and a lot of the energy he produces on stage comes from concentrating.

"I have to really contain myself and concentrate and not just play garbage," Sprott said. "There are a few seconds in a song when I can just let go."

Sprott said he is aware of his fans that come out night after night, week after week.

"A few of (the regular listeners) will be here. As a working musician, that's what you hope for," he said. "It makes you feel good because people would not come out and listen if there wasn't something there."

Brandi Grady, a graduate student studying mass communications said, she has been following Sprott since she first came to Lubbock six years ago.

"That's why we are here every Wednesday," Grady said. "We've been coming here forever."

Grady took her mother to see the band last week to the weekly social ritual.

"It's awesome to know I can walk by the stage and (Sprott will) wave at me because he recognizes my face," Grady said. "He is awesome wherever he is."

Grady had her thesis accepted last week and said even though she rarely missed a show, following Sprott around Lubbock never have a negative impact on her school work.

“Live music at a college bar — there’s not a better scene. They cover everything. They cover generations of music. That’s why we keep coming back.”

— MICHAEL BLACK
Senior Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management Major from Houston

Sprott plays tonight at JFK's in the Depot District.

Michael Black, a senior restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Houston, said his whole table sings and dances along with the music.

"He's an original; he's the Buddy Holly of his time. Lubbock doesn't have a 'type' of music, and neither does he," Black said. "Live music at a college bar — there's not a better scene. They cover everything. They cover generations of music. That's why we keep coming back."

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The value of finding balance in music, life

Pop culture analyst Chuck Klosterman said in his book, "Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs," "There's only one thing worse than someone who has nothing to say, and that's someone who can't talk about anything but music."

I spend most of my day talking about music. Most of my friends spend most of their day doing the same, and probably a quarter of the conversations I have with my girlfriend are about which new French pop bands we've found while downloading music at work that day.

It is both a blessing and a curse because inevitably when talking to anyone about music, I'm going to get annoyed.

Here are two surefire ways to annoy me during a conversation.

The first is this: when the subject of music comes up, don't tell me you listen to "everything." Lie to me.



Marcus Parks

Music is a consequence of life, no matter what anyone says. While I may dedicate my life to analyzing it, it is not the only thing this life has to offer. But, it is a wonderful part of it.

Anyone who says he listens to "everything" actively listens to almost nothing. That usually means music is mere background noise in his life, and I have no patience for this.

The "everything" answer tells me this person puts almost no thought into the music they listen to but has pretensions that he does, unlike those of us who would die slow, painful deaths should we ever lose our hearing.

Does it sound snobbish yet? It's about to get worse.

Here's the other way to annoy me: be a genre snob. Listen to one thing and shun everything else. It doesn't matter if the genre is indie, alternative, Texas country, classical, Jewish metal, whatever.

People who listen to one genre and nothing else makes me want to punch them in the neck and walk away, leaving them on the ground to writhe in shame. They deserve it.

But you, dear reader, I know you don't do either of those things.

You deserve to hear the best music out there. Everyone deserves to know how much good stuff there is in this world, and there is quite a bit, if only you search for it.

Speaking of the world, consider the genre of the same name. Within the genre of world music, there are literally hundreds of sub-genres that can be explored endlessly, and some that were created specifically for one band.

My favorite of that kind: Ukrainian gypsy-punkers Gogol Bordello. Mostly immigrants and refugees from former Soviet states, this band makes my want to quit my job, school, leave everything behind and become a touring gypsy, if only because it looks a lot of fun.

Almost every day, I find a band in some new genre I've never heard of that I have to tell someone about, and conversely, someone I know comes to me with something new that they've found as well.

But remember, music is not the only thing the world has to offer, as I discovered a few years ago, after I became a terrible bore,

talking about nothing but music. I've got friends who can't shut up about whatever "Godspeed! You Black Emperor" side projects have come out in the last five years or which band on Sub Pop is releasing eight EPs in the next six months with guest vocals from Jesus or something. It can get fairly ridiculous sometimes.

Music is a consequence of life,

no matter what anyone says. While I may dedicate my life to analyzing it, music is not the only thing this life has to offer. But, it is a wonderful part of it.

I've found the purpose of the majority of the music I've heard to be the understanding of the human condition. I suppose that could be said of all art.

And while it does bring us closer to understanding what it means to be us, forgetting to live life simply because you spend all your time listening to records and reading "Pitchfork" is a waste of it.

There is a balance all of us must reach with our obsessions. I love music. It is my livelihood.

But I also love literature, politics, comic books, Pez and sci-fi. Ask me about them anytime. But expect to hear about the perfect soundtracks to each while we're talking.

■ Parks is *The UD's* music critic. E-mail comments and questions to Marcus.J.Parks@ttu.edu.



THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Festive occasions
- Variety of salmon
- Dress line
- Besieged site of 1836
- October stone
- Operatic showstopper
- Grad about
- Nota (note well)
- Angelic feature
- Start of Emerson quote
- Mata
- Banned apple spray
- Vicinity
- Copper coin
- Sort
- of roses
- Old-time interjection
- Light brown
- Part 2 of quote
- Bad leader?
- Lennon's love
- Carried on the wind
- Main courses
- Rental car company
- Portfolio plus
- Son of Leah
- Hebrew month
- End of quote
- Creche
- three some
- Declare
- Good Book
- Wash-basin partner
- Camera's eye
- Shun
- Kind of club
- Latin being
- Takes a siesta

By Alan P. Olschawg
Huntington Beach, CA 4/7/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

TALK ATTO PIPALL
AMEN LARS ORALLE
NEMO LRAE LOTTIO
GLOWING PRAISE
LIN NEE STEREO
EASED TITHE NRA
SRA SEC SALT
SHINING EXAMPLES
LANE TAR NIA
AID ALTER STATE
TRIAGE EWE TUN
GLARING ERRORS
CLEAT SOIL ANTI
DANTE AROD GALL
SITES KANT ALEE

DOWN

- Wayne's "Wayne's World" cohort
- Walkie welcome
- Rod of tennis
- Grant Wood's Gothic
- Nursing a grudge
- Brittle metallic element
- Massenet work
- Banister element
- Butter alternative
- Majority of Mali
- Important time
- Trouble
- Chinese revolutionary
- Unnaturally pale
- Distant
- Go in
- Another time
- Have an inking
- Unit of work
- Mags hue
- Lost
- Dilutes
- Hues
- Follies man
- Ziegfeld
- Misery
- Subjugates
- Oriental sash
- Precipitous plunge
- Start drawing on the pension
- DDE's command
- Disciplined
- Caesar's seven
- Balances
- Gray wolves
- Dark
- City SW of York
- Robust
- Skier's lift
- Actress Ryan
- Belt maker's tool
- Holy cow!

Jennings vows to continue work despite lung cancer diagnosis

NEW YORK (AP) — Some regular ABC viewers suspected something was amiss when Peter Jennings did not report to work over the weekend when the pope died, just the kind of important international story he loves to cover.

Now they have learned the sad reason why: Jennings has lung cancer.

Jennings broke the news in an e-mail to colleagues Tuesday and, in a taped message because his husky voice would not permit him to anchor "World News Tonight" in the evening, to his viewers.

"Almost 10 million Americans are already living with cancer, and I have a lot to learn from them," he

said. "And living is the key word." Jennings, who begins chemotherapy treatment next week, said he intends to keep anchoring the evening news. But he acknowledged there will be days when he is not up to it.

For two decades Jennings, NBC's Tom Brokaw and CBS's Dan Rather were the anchors who were always there, telling Americans about the Reagan administration, the fall of communism, the O.J. Simpson trial, the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and countless other stories.

Now, with almost blinding speed, that era is over. Brokaw left last November, replaced by Brian Williams. Embattled Dan Rather said goodbye to the evening news last month.

And Jennings, who had looked forward to a period as the business' elder statesman, is fighting for his health.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the United States, and roughly four out of five people diagnosed with the disease die within five years, said Dr. Cliff Connery, chief of thoracic surgery at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan.

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BASEBALL

Red Raiders put one in the 'win'd column

By Bryan Wendell/
The University Daily

Like the swirling gusts of wind clocked at up to 46 mph, Texas Tech and Angelo State traded offensive blows in a rare Wednesday game at Dan Law Field.

The Red Raiders (20-10), however, did not waver in the winds and defeated the Rams, 11-6.

Tech's bottom half of the order came through Wednesday, with the final four batters combining for nine of the Raiders' 11 runs. Third baseman Joey Callender, outfielder Brent Thomas, designated hitter Carey Avants and catcher Matt Smith each went 2-for-3 on the day and each had at least one RBI and one walk.

"You mix in guys down there (in the bottom of the lineup) that can hit and run a little bit and get on base, and when you get to the top of the lineup it keeps going," Avants said.

Smith, making only his eighth start in Tech's 30 games this season, made his presence known in the bottom of the seventh when he hit a towering home run over the 18-foot wall in straightaway center field.

The blast was Smith's first home run of the season. When he hit it,

Angelo State center fielder Brad Hough kept retreating back to the high green wall, but the wind kept carrying the ball before it fell at the foot of the Petroleum Engineering building.

"Honestly, I did not (know what was going to be a home run)," Smith said. "I didn't think I hit it that well. The pitcher got inside on me a little bit, and I thought it was just a lazy fly ball, but fortunately, with the 50 mph wind, it carried a bit. I didn't think it would carry that much."

Despite the strong winds that averaged 37 miles per hour and were blowing out toward center field much of the afternoon, Smith's seventh-inning blast was the game's only home run.

Tech coach Larry Hays said the strong gusts possibly motivated some Raider players to swing for the fences.

"We had some guys try to hit some home runs today, and they made outs trying to do it," he said.

Right-hander Billy Carnline was called on in the fourth inning after Fielding Lewis hit back-to-back batters.

Carnline, who did not even travel with the team to Missouri last weekend, originally was scheduled to pitch one or two innings in the game.

"The plan was for me to come in the fifth and pitch an inning, but Fielding got into a little bit of trouble so I came in sooner than was planned," Carnline said. "I came in and gave up that one hit, and then I got in a groove and settled down a little bit."

After he allowed a hit, Carnline shut down the Rams for the next 4 2/3 innings, allowing two walks and striking out six batters — including four consecutive to finish his afternoon of work.

Carnline (5-1) recorded the win, and knew he needed a strong performance to raise his stock in the bullpen or rotation.

"Coming out here, I knew I had something to prove," he said. "It's kind of like coach (Brandon) Roberson was telling me in the (bull)pen, that I need to go out there and compete for that spot like I want it."

After the game, Hays said he was impressed with Carnline's ability to overcome near-gale force winds.

"The big thing today was Carnline ... pitching in the wind," Hays said. "It takes a pretty tough mindset and a lot of guys have trouble doing that, but he went out and pitched. It's a tough way to have to live as a pitcher, but I was really pleased with the way handled it."

Pitchers from Angelo State, a Division II school in the Lone Star Conference, were not as successful in the West Texas winds, with no pitcher lasting longer than three innings. Ram pitchers combined to allow 12 walks and hit two batters

while striking out two. After Wednesday's non-conference contest, the Raiders are back in the heart of the Big 12 schedule, hosting the Oklahoma State Cowboys in a three-game series beginning Friday at Dan Law Field.

SCOREBOARD												
INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
ANGELO ST.	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	8	2
TEXAS TECH	0	4	2	0	2	1	1	1	X	11	9	3
Win - Carnline, (5-1); Loss - Schniers, (0-1); Save - None; HR - M. Smith, TTU (1); A - 1,909												

THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2005

STAT. CHAN. AFIL CITY	KTXT 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KUPT 22 UPN Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7 AM	Body Electric	Today A travel segment.	Early Show Jane Fonda.	Believers Voice Life Today	Good Morning America	Awesome Adv. Spin City
8 AM	Bears			Paid Program		Rosanne
9 AM	Barney			Paid Program		Rosanne
9 AM	Dragon Tales			Paid Program	Judge Mathis Loan repayment.	Home Delivery
10 AM	Sesame Street	Regis & Kelly	Price Is Right	Judge Joe	The View	Becker
11 AM	Mister Rogers	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Dharma & Greg
12 PM	Teletubbies	Jeopardy!		Paid Program	Home Impro	Ambush
12 PM	This Old House	News	KLBK 13 News	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Starting Over
1 PM	T. Madden	Days of Our Lives	Bold & Beautiful			Access Hollywd Extra
1 PM	Needle Arts		As the World Turns	Paid Program	One Life to Live	People's Court
2 PM	Zoom	Passions		Paid Program		Divorce Court
2 PM	The Lions		Guiding Light	Animal Adv	General Hospital	Texas Justice
3 PM	Reading 'Bugs'	Inside Edition		Paid Program		Fear Factor
3 PM	Buster	Oprah Winfrey	Maury	Dharma & Greg	Jane Pauley	Fox 34 News First@ Four
4 PM	Cyberchase		Sabrina			Malcolm
4 PM	Clifford	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	That '70s Show	Montel Williams	Simpsons
5 PM	Arthur		Malcolm			Friends
5 PM	Maya Miguel	News	KLBK 13 News	Access Hollywd	World News	Raymond
6 PM	Nightly Business	Nightly News	Evening News	Family Feud	World News	The O.C. 'The Risky Business'
6 PM	Newshour with Jim Lehrer	News	KLBK 13 News	Extra	Entertainment	Tru Calling 'In the Dark' (HD)
7 PM	This Old House Hour	Joey (HD)	Survivor: Palau	WWE SmackDown!	Jake (HD)	Fox 34 News@Nine
8 PM	Farming the Seas	The Apprentice 'Seems Stress'	CSI: 'Ch - Ch - Changes' (HD)		Extreme Makeover	
9 PM	Meaning of Food 'Food and Life'	(59) ER 'Try Carter' (HD)	Without a Trace (HD)	King of the Hill	PrimeTime	
10 PM	Nightly Business	News	KLBK 13 News	That '70s Show	News	Seinfeld
10 PM	Destinos	(35) Jay Leno (HD)	(50) David Letterman (HD)	Magnum, P.I.	(35) Nightline	Frasier
11 PM	GED			Blind Date	Paid Program	Just Shoot Me
12 AM	Off Air	(35) Conan O'Brien	(50) Late Late Show	Paid Program	Paid Program	Kimmel

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- *Pets Welcome

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FALL PRE-LEASING SPECIAL

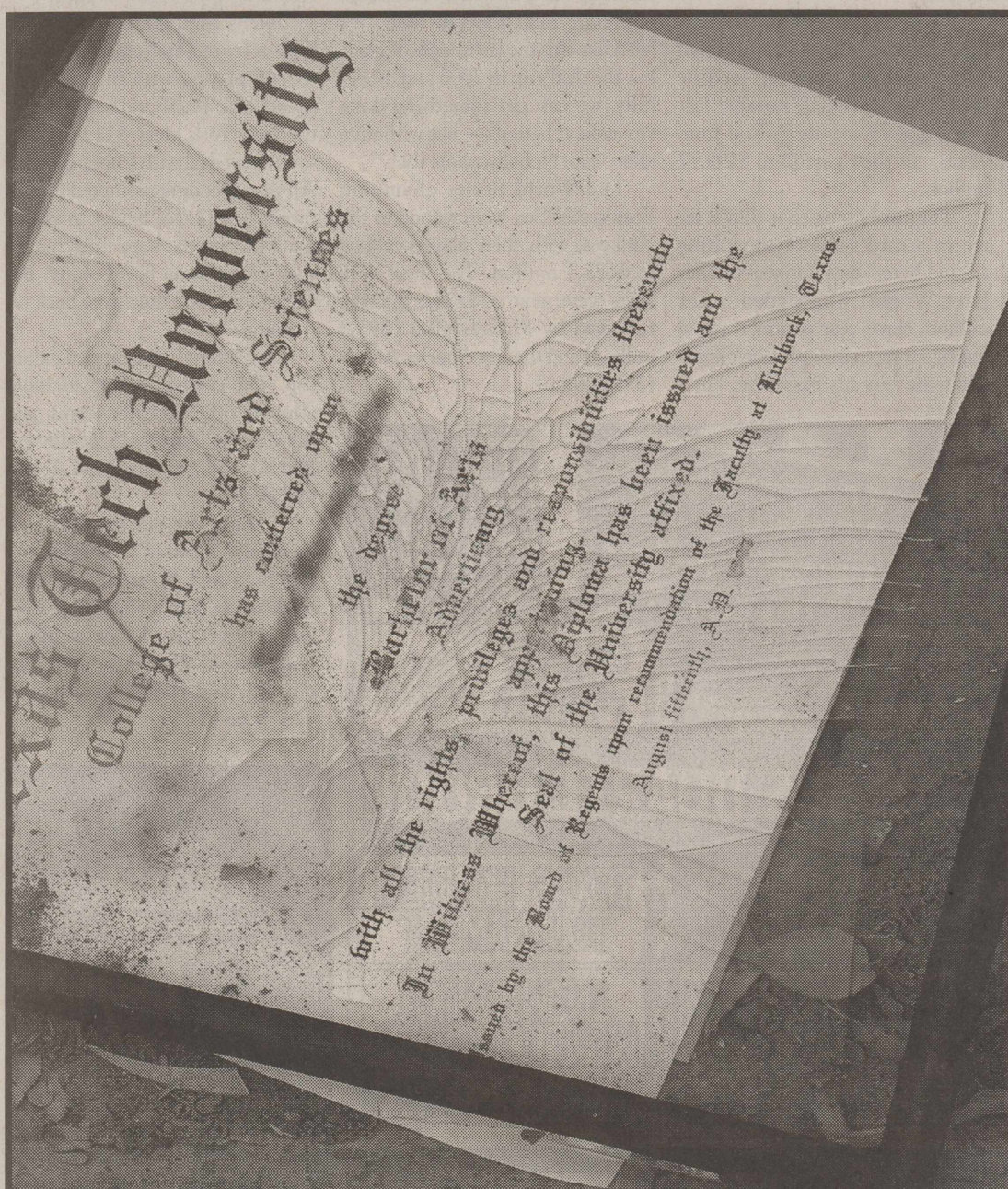
Savannah Oaks Apartments

5204 50th St. 797-8612

No application fee with this ad!

That '70s Show WEEKDAYS @ 5PM
FOX 34

9:00 FOX34 NEWS @ Nine



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BEACH BASH

THURSDAY APRIL 7TH

BEACH ATTIRE RECOMMENDED

BIKINIS APPRECIATED

KEVIN FOWLER

LIVE IN D&D

MOYA LIVE IN THE ICE HOUSE

50¢

**WELL/WINE &
LONGNECKS
TIL 11PM**

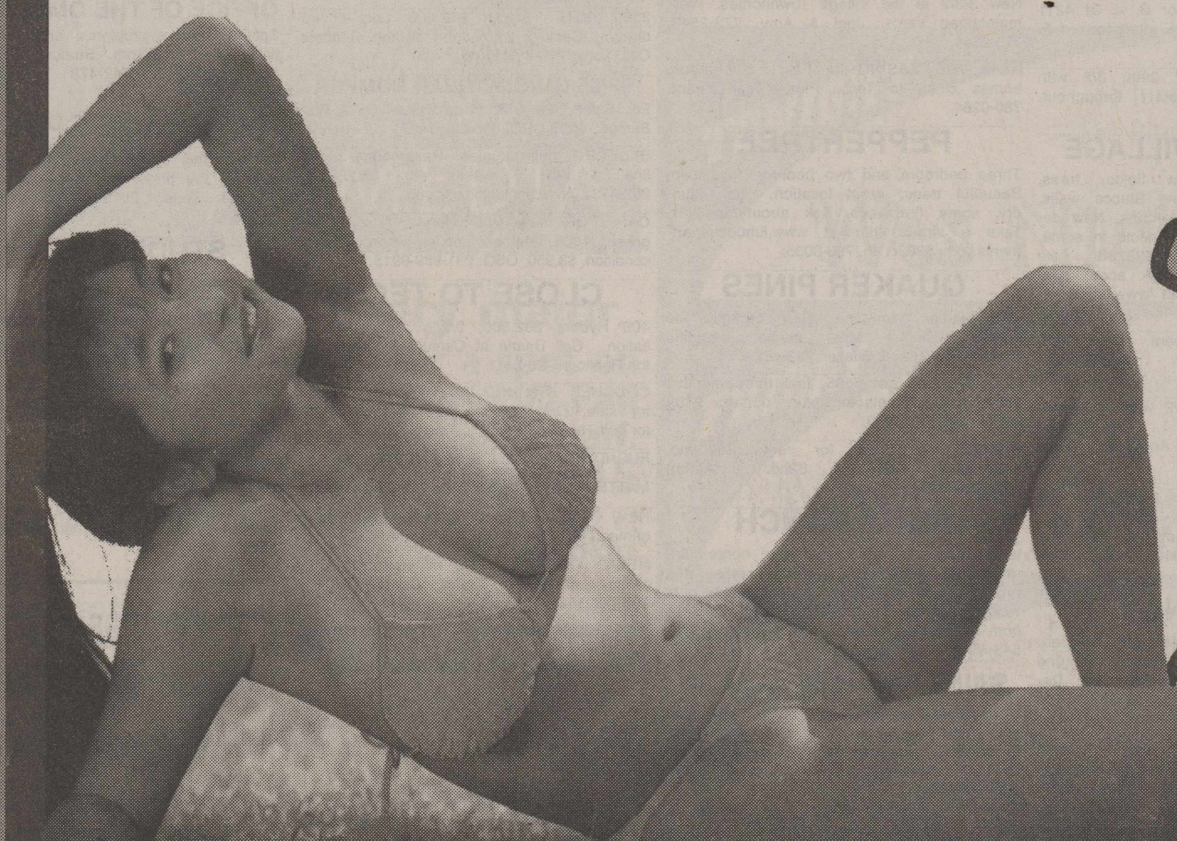
\$1.75

**WELL/WINE &
LONGNECKS
11PM TIL CLOSE**

FREE ADMISSION TIL 9PM

(LADIES 21 AND UP - MEN 21 AND UP W/COLLEGE ID)

\$6 COVER CHARGE AFTER 9PM



\$500

BIKINI CONTEST